

# the Milliwatt



The award-winning monthly publication of  
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society.  
P.O. Box 5915      Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

September, 2004

## HAMFEST A SUCCESS!

In spite of the threatening skies (or maybe because of them), buyers kept coming in the gate in droves to attend the Famous BRATS Maryland Hamfest and Computer Fest at Timonium on Sunday, July 25. The rains never came, but the cloudy weather kept the tailgating area nice and cool throughout the day. We thank all of our vendors, visitors, patrons and guests and look forward to next year.



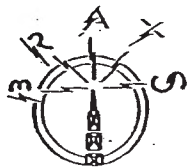
Photo by Scott, KB3JQQ

## Foundation for Amateur Radio Announces Scholarship Winners

Ernest L. Walker, WB3DVL Memorial Scholarship (\$1000) sponsored by The BRATS:  
Victor R. Gigante-Hueber, KB3GJF of Bowie, MD.

Md. Mobillers Memorial Scholarship (\$500) in memory of Jerry Gavin, NU3D:

Victor R. Curtis, KB3BTD, Cheltenham, MD. (See <http://www.arrl.org/> for additional winners)



## the Milliwatt

The award-winning monthly publication of The BRATS. Items contained herein may be reprinted with credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

### Some Thoughts

Thanks again to all who came out to support The BRATS Hamfest: buyers, sellers and workers. It was nice to see and visit with our many friends again. We appreciate your participation in the success of our event.

We also appreciate your responses to our request for your opinion with regard to method of transmission of *The MILLIWATT*. Nothing is resolved yet, but we are working on it. If you have not commented and wish to do so, please do; or if you'd like to comment on something else, we are always happy to hear from you. Just send me an e-mail at: [mayerzimmerman@netzero.com](mailto:mayerzimmerman@netzero.com).

Thanks and 73,  
Mayer, W3GXX

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**The Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915**

a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and a non-profit corporation in the State of Maryland.

home page: <http://www.bratsatv.org>

e-mail: [mail@bratsatv.org](mailto:mail@bratsatv.org)

InfoLine: 410- 461-0086

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 PM, Pikesville Library,  
1301 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville, MD.

President: Ed Rosen, N3GXX

Vice Pres: Ian Millet, N3CVA

Secretary: Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

Treasurer: Les McClure, W3GXT

Chairman: Heru Walmsley, W3WVV

Vice Chairman, Technical: Mike Dees, N3EZD

Vice Chairman, Operations: Ian Millet, N3CVA

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### BRATS Repeaters

**BRATS Linked Repeater System:**

W3DID: 147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

**BRATS Stand-alone Repeaters:**

443.350+, 224.80-

**BRATS APRS Network Node:**

W3GXT-2: 144.390 APRS

**BRATS ATV Repeater System:**

W3WCQ: inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

outputs: 439.25, 911.25

### BRATS Weekly Nets

Mon 11:45 Informal ATV Net, W3WVV  
Mon 9 PM Traffic and Info Net, W3GXX  
Tues 9 PM Horsetraders Net, KA3CEA  
Thurs 9 PM BRATS ATV Net  
Sat. 1 PM News Bulletin, W3GXX  
Sat. 1:20 BRATS Answer Men:  
W3WVV and N3GXX  
As Needed Skywarn Net; and/or BRATS  
Weather/Emergency Net,  
N3VMF, WA3DZZ

### BRATS Board of Directors:

Through December, 2004:

KA3RRK, N3WJH, N3SOK, KC3FI

Through December, 2005:

KA3IDB, W3ZQI, K3RGG, KD7QOT,  
KB3FIF

### BRATS MEETINGS

Second Tuesday, 7:30 PM  
Pikesville Library  
1301 Reisterstown Rd.

### Next BRATS MEETINGS

**Pikesville Library, 7:30 PM**

Tuesday, September 14,

Tuesday, October 12

Tuesday, November 9

Tuesday, December 14

## CANADIAN LICENSING CHANGES PROPOSED

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has proposed formally that Industry Canada(IC) eliminate Morse code as a ham radio testing requirement for operation in bands below 30 MHz in Canada. RAC wants Industry Canada to continue to make Morse testing available to Canadian amateurs still wishing to have that qualification specified on their certificate, however. At the same time, the RAC wants IC to require applicants for the Basic examination to score at least 80 percent before permitting operation below 30 MHz. Under the proposal, present Basic plus Morse holders would be considered as holders of the new Intermediate qualification. Basic holders who have not passed the Morse exam would continue to hold that class with existing operating privileges. Current Basic-without-Morse licensees who retake the Basic examination and obtain at least 80 percent would be upgraded to Intermediate. RAC also recommends that the passing grade for the Basic and Advanced examinations be raised from 60 to 70 percent when the Morse requirement is dropped. Ultimately, RAC wants the passing grade to be upped to 75 percent for all examination elements. Anyone holding both the Basic and Advanced qualifications would have HF privileges, and the Intermediate qualification or Basic plus Morse would become a prerequisite to obtaining the Advanced. The RAC also wants IC to create a new entry-level qualification. RAC President Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, says Canadian amateurs can anticipate implementation of a first phase of the RAC recommendations by year's end. Details are available on the RAC Web site: <<http://www.rac.ca/downloads/morserec.pdf>>.

## Still time to comment in "omnibus" Part 97 rule making

(Aug 17, 2004) -- Because the complete text of the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 04-140 failed to make it into the Federal Register until August 17, interested parties now will have until September 15 to comment. Released in April, the so-called "omnibus" NPRM seeks comments on a wide range of proposed Amateur Service (Part 97) rules changes as well as certain changes to Parts 1 and 2 of the FCC's rules (see "FCC Proposes Wide-Ranging Changes to Amateur Rules"). It does not deal with Amateur Radio license restructuring or the Morse code examination requirement for HF privileges. Among other things, the NPRM&O recommends adoption of the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan and proposes eliminating FCC rules prohibiting manufacture or marketing of Amateur Radio Service power amplifiers capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz. Interested parties may comment on the NPRM via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). Click on "Submit a filing." To view filed comments, click on "Search for filed comments." In both cases, enter "04-140" (without the quotation marks) in the "Proceeding" field.

## AMSAT-UK Announces New Amateur Satellite Project

If you geared up for the apparently now-defunct AMSAT Phase 3B (AO-40) satellite, don't get rid of that U/S-band equipment just yet. AMSAT-UK Chairman Martin Sweeting, G3YJO, has announced that an Amateur Radio transponder will be part of the European Space Agency's (ESA) Student Space Exploration and Technology Initiative (SSETI) "Express" satellite. Onboard will be a 2.4 GHz transmitter and a 437 MHz receiver. The pair will be turned into an amateur FM voice transponder after the transmitter serves initial telemetry duty. [ARRL Web Extra]

## ON6SAT: New Amateur Satellite Website!

The ON1CAU Satellite page is after almost 7 years history! The re-design of our new website has reached the stage for testing. It's a complete new design with a new name ( ON6SAT Amateur satellite Links ) and a new address <http://on6sat.com/links/> Don't forget to update your bookmarks! The site contains more than 1200 amateur & weather satellite related links and the database is always growing. General Amateur Radio links are not indexed here, just links having some special connection to amateur radio in space. I hope you will drop by and let me know what you think! 73, Berto ON6SAT (ex ON1CAU) [eahm.net]

## Cell phones move closer to onboard use

On a noisy flight from Dallas to west Texas and back, American and Qualcomm demonstrated a system that could allow passengers to use cell phones during flights — if federal regulators approve. Thanks in part to new technology, passengers on the flight were able to place and receive calls as if they were on the ground. American says the information gathered during what's called a "proof-of-concept demonstration" will be used for further research into onboard communications. Current rules forbid use of cell phones for fear of interference with navigation and other essential systems. Callers seemed giddy at being able to use their phones, dialing up friends and family just to say that they were at 30,000 feet. Over the drone of the jet's engines, passengers reported to each other how their calls went. The demonstration was limited to 10 callers at a time, while a team of engineers checked with callers and monitored the system. "This is not a commercially ready system, so it's not just a case of taking out your phone and going at it," said Paul Guckian, a senior director for Qualcomm. He predicted it may be two years before a full system could be deployed.



## Field Day logs received now posted

The complete list of Field Day logs received has been posted on the ARRL Web site. The list includes paper logs, e-mailed logs and logs submitted via the Web applet. In the event of errors in the basic information or missing entries, contact Kathy Allison, KA1RWY, 860-594-0295. If an entry is marked as a check log, it is either because it was designated as such or because the ARRL Contest Branch doesn't have sufficient information to properly process the log. In those cases, the ARRL Contest Branch has requested clarification. If no response is received, however, the submissions will remain check logs. [ARRL Web Extra]

## HAMBLOG.COM

[www.hamblog.com](http://www.hamblog.com) is a new weblog host exclusively for amateur radio operators. What is a blog you ask? Simply, it's a spot in cyberspace where people post their thoughts and ideas on just about any subject. Some blogs let you do just that while others like [hamblog.com](http://hamblog.com) are targeted to a particular subject. In the case of [hamblog.com](http://hamblog.com) it's our hobby of Amateur Radio. The service is free of charge so go check it out. The URL is simply [www.hamblog.com](http://www.hamblog.com) (Via arnewsline)

## OH2B Back

International Beacon Project Station OH2B Back on the Air, one of the 18-strong stations in the world-wide five-band International Beacon Project network, has made a very welcome return to activity after an absence of two years. It has been heard during the past fortnight on the IBP frequencies on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930 and 28.200 kHz. (rsgb) via WIA QNEWS



## **Busted! AA ejects fliers for T-shirt:**

American Airlines ejected a passenger from a Saturday flight for wearing an "indecent" t-shirt, The Associated Press reported. Oscar Arela and his girlfriend were returning to New York from a Costa Rican vacation, when American cabin crew objected to the shirt, which showed a woman's bare breast. Arela refused to change the shirt or turn it inside out at Miami International Airport, where the couple caught a connecting flight. Arela and his girlfriend claim that none of the other passengers were offended and say their right to free speech was violated. American, which supports the action of its crew, said the shirt was more graphic than the couple described. "The description I heard was a picture of a graphic of a naked man and woman performing a sexual act," airline spokesman Tim Wagner told The Miami Herald. "We as an airline are in the service business, and we have the same latitude as a restaurant that says 'proper attire' is required." The couple was given a refund by AA.

## **Cat in cockpit causes emergency landing**

BRUSSELS — A Belgian airliner made an emergency landing after an agitated passenger — a cat — got into the cockpit and attacked the co-pilot, the airline said Tuesday. The SN Brussels flight from the Belgian capital to Vienna, Austria, had been in the air about 20 minutes Monday when "it was noticed" that a passenger's pet had escaped from its cage, "although it is not yet clear how," according to an airline statement. "Once free, the animal proceeded to wander around the cabin," slipping into the cockpit when meals were being delivered to the two-man flight crew, it said. "At this stage the animal became agitated and nervous," it said. An airline spokeswoman added that the cat scratched the copilot's arm. The pilot decided to return to Brussels as a precaution, and the 58 passengers departed once more two hours later on another flight. The cat had been checked in Oslo, Norway, in an internationally approved "flight transport bag," but the airline said it may end up changing its procedures for pets in the cabin once it concludes its investigation. "At no time throughout the incident was the passengers' security affected in any way," it said.

## **Now hear this! It's not a bomb:**

Part of an American Airlines terminal at Dallas-Fort Worth was evacuated for several hours Thursday after baggage screening detected a suspicious object with various wires. It turned out to be a "vintage microphone," authorities told The Associated Press. The terminal was reopened and airport operations resumed after a bomb squad used a robot to remove the pipe-shaped object. "We always err on the side of caution ... to ensure the safety of the traveling public," said Ann Davis, a spokeswoman for the Transportation Security Administration.

## **Singapore Airlines introduces text messaging check-in**

Passengers on Singapore Airlines will be able to check in for flights by sending a text message on their mobile phones, the carrier announced Tuesday. The short message service (SMS) function is the latest use of technology that Singapore Airlines has introduced to make checking in easier and quicker, adding to Internet, mobile phone and fax facilities. "This enables our customers to check in in the manner that is most convenient and saves time for passengers," the airline's senior vice president of products and services, Yap Kim Wah, said in a statement. After checking in remotely, passengers need to pick up their boarding passes and check in their luggage on the day of departure from a dedicated counter, rather than wait in regular queues. The SMS service will initially apply to flights departing from Singapore, Auckland, Bandar Seri Begawan, Bangkok, Chennai, Christchurch, Dhaka, Hanoi, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Penang and Taipei. Passengers have to first register on the airline's Web site to use the service.

## **North Carolina Utility Ending BPL Field Trial; System Shutdown Pending**

Progress Energy Corporation (PEC) says it's completed Phase II of its broadband over power line (BPL) field trial in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area. In an August 4 PEC internal memorandum made available to ARRL, the company said its program to "test the viability of providing broadband service to communities it serves" will wrap up by the end of August, although PEC still plans to explore "several key strategic issues" regarding BPL through the end of this year. The company reportedly will shut down the system once it's able to move its BPL customers to other broadband providers. [ARRL Web Extra]

## **BROADBAND PROVIDER TO DROP BPL IN NEW YORK TRIAL COMMUNITY**

The broadband provider that's been testing BPL in the Village of Penn Yan, New York, reportedly plans to "move away" from that technology. According to an article in the July 28 edition of the Finger Lakes Times Online, DVI now is proposing to employ wireless mesh "WiFi" technology instead of BPL. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, congratulated Penn Yan Mayor Douglas G. Marchionda Jr and DVI for going with wireless broadband instead of BPL. For more information on BPL, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page on the ARRL Web site. (sourced to arrl letter) [WIA QNEWS]

## **ARRL Goes to Bat for Arizona Amateurs, Seeks BPL Field Trial Shutdown**

(Aug 17, 2004) -- The ARRL has asked the FCC to immediately shut down a broadband over power line (BPL) field trial in the Cottonwood, Arizona, area because it's causing "severe interference" to Amateur Radio communication. Electric Broadband LLC and utility APS have been operating the BPL experiment at two Yavapai County sites since June under a Special Temporary Authorization (STA) the FCC granted to Electric Broadband in March.

## **FCC Chairman reaffirms support for BPL**

Speaking in Menlo Park, California July 15, FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell again asserted that broadband over power line technology "holds the great promise to bring high-speed Internet access to every power outlet in America." Powell's statement followed a demonstration of BPL technology at AT&T Labs co-sponsored by Pacific Gas and Electric Company and AT&T. "What I saw today has the potential to play a key role in meeting our goals to expand the availability and affordability of broadband," Powell said. "The future is bright for powerline broadband. We'll continue at the FCC to explore ways to support this technology while protecting other services from interference."

## **Israel: Electromagnetic Radiation Law Proposals**

Eli, 4Z5IS, reported on the yet to be passed Electromagnetic Radiation Law, where a number of amendments were made in the radio amateurs' favor. Some were: inspectors may enter private homes if they have a court order, certain equipment not having to be registered, exemption for radio amateurs in the payment of a radiation levy, the extension of authorization granted to radio amateurs to five years. As well the IARC (Israel Amateur Radio Club) is being considered as the body to authorize inspections. Also being considered is a proposal for a certain power ceiling for exemptions.

## **MEXICO: ALL N.A. ADOPTS U.S. HDTV STANDARD**

Mexico has formally adopted the U.S. ATSC Digital Television Standard based on 8 VSB technology. This, for terrestrial broadcasting in that nation. Canada adopted the same standard in 1997. The decision by Mexico to go along with the U-S and Canada means that ATSC is now the North American Digital Television standard. ATSC was also adopted by South Korea in November of 1997 and Argentina in October of 1998. More is on the web at [http://www.atsc.org/news\\_information/press/2004/PR\\_Mexico\\_7-7-4.pdf](http://www.atsc.org/news_information/press/2004/PR_Mexico_7-7-4.pdf) (CGC)

## **FCC Emergency Communications Declaration Policy Prefers VHF-UHF**

The FCC has formalized its policy for issuing an emergency communications declaration (ECD) on Amateur Radio Service frequencies. The policy, which became effective August 2, states that ECDs will be issued for VHF or UHF repeaters—if the licensee consents—or on simplex channels in the 60-meter band. The FCC will not entertain requests to specifically sequester frequencies in other HF bands for emergency traffic only. Past emergency communications declarations—typically issued during weather-related emergencies—have put frequencies on 75 and 40 meters off limits to general use in an affected region. The practice has drawn complaints from members of the amateur community—especially from those well outside the affected region—and from emergency nets, which still experienced QRM.

## **Hawaii's Governor Vetoes Amateur Radio Antenna Bills**

NEWINGTON, CT, Jul 15, 2004--Hawaii Gov Linda Lingle has vetoed two Amateur Radio antenna bills. Both pieces of legislation would have provided limited opportunities for amateurs living under private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) to erect antennas. HB 2773 would have opened the door for amateurs living in condominiums to make arrangements with the homeowners' association board to install an antenna without having to change the CC&Rs—often a more difficult process. HB 2774 would have granted similar rights to the relatively few amateurs who live under CC&Rs in agricultural-zoned property. Lingle, a Republican, invoked the same reason for refusing to sign both bills into law. "This bill is objectionable because it amounts to an inappropriate and unacceptable governmental intrusion into the contractual affairs of the property owners," Lingle said July 13 in her veto messages to HB 2773 and HB 2774. "This measure would allow the installation of antennas in an owner's unit, notwithstanding objections by other owners." The two measures, sponsored by Rep Ken Hiraki (D-28), had undergone substantial changes in wording from that proposed in the original legislation. Following lengthy negotiations and a House-Senate conference, HB 2773 passed the Senate May 3 on a 25-0 vote and the House on a 37-14 vote. On the same day, HB 2774—essentially completely reworded from its original text—also received unanimous Senate approval, while House members okayed the measure on a 35-16 vote. Lingle indicated in late June that she planned to veto the measures, and ARRL Pacific Section Manager Kevin Bogan, AH6QQ, called on Hawaii members to convince her not to.

## **FCC announces expanded Universal Licensing System Hotline Support hours**

The FCC has announced expanded hours for its Universal Licensing System (ULS) Hotline Support. ULS users now may reach the FCC ULS Hotline by phone—toll-free, 877-480-3201 or local, 717-338-2888 (Amateur Service callers select Option 2)—from 8 AM until 7 PM Eastern Time except on federal holidays. "Customer demand will determine whether there will be further changes to this schedule," the FCC said in a public notice. ULS Hotline Support also is available via e-mail [ulshelp@fcc.gov](mailto:ulshelp@fcc.gov). Contact ULS Hotline Support if you have questions about which applications to use, what information is being requested on a ULS form or schedule or any other ULS-related licensing matter. The FCC continues to provide ULS technical support weekdays from 8 AM until 6 PM Eastern time. Call toll-free, 877-480-3701 or local, 202-414-1250 (TTY 202-414-1255). Technical Support handles questions concerning computer access to ULS, uploading files, submitting attachments to ULS filings and FRN passwords. The FCC notes that "all calls to the ULS hotlines are recorded.--FCC [via ARRL Web Extra]

## **FCC no longer issuing certain 2x3-format vanity call signs**

For the record, the FCC has ceased issuing 2x3-format Amateur Radio vanity call signs that begin in the prefixes WC, WR, WK and WT (eg, WR1AAA, WC4ZZZ). The Commission has acknowledged that it erroneously granted more than 150 WR and WC-format vanity call signs from 1997 through September 2003, when it began rejecting such call sign requests. [ARRL Web Extra]

## **John D. Kraus, W8JK, SK**

Well-known radio astronomer, antenna designer, cosmic explorer and author John D. Kraus, W8JK, of Delaware, Ohio, died Sunday, July 18. He was 94 and reportedly was in failing health but alert to the end. While he enjoyed a worldwide reputation, Kraus is perhaps best known within the Amateur Radio community for his bi-directional wire beam antenna design--often dubbed the '8JK array. The antenna has remained popular among radio amateurs for decades. Other important Kraus antenna designs include the corner reflector and the helix antenna, often used in amateur satellite antennas as well as in commercial communications applications. The Michigan native was a pioneer of radiotelescope design and the father of the so-called "Big Ear" telescope, which ceased operation in 1997 after almost 40 years of service.

## **First western Canada LF QSO reported**

British Columbia amateurs Steve McDonald, VE7SL, Mayne Island, and Scott Tilley, VE7TIL, Vancouver, reportedly completed the first western Canadian contact on the 2200 meter band on July 10. McDonald said the contact between the two stations on 137.754 kHz spanned a distance of approximately 50 km (about 31 miles). "VE7TIL utilized slow-speed CW--QRSS3--mode, while VE7SL used normal CW," McDonald said. VE7TIL was running a homebrew transmitter that ran about 1 W output, while VE7SL was using a homebrew crystal-controlled exciter into a single FET amplifier at 100W output. "Both of us used similar antenna systems for transmitting--a loaded three-wire flattop 'T,'" McDonald said. Both stations also used small loop antennas for receiving. "Being the only 2200-meter activity west of Ontario, it is hoped that our efforts will stimulate more interest in LF on the Canadian West Coast and western provinces," McDonald said. Both he and Tilley are working on improving their antenna systems and increasing power levels for the winter season. For more information about 136 kHz activity and equipment, visit The VE7SL Radio Notebook and The Radio Beacon TIL Web sites. [ARRL Web Extra]

## **New Zealand-Fiji LF/HF contact reported**

Overnight on June 26, ZM2E, a special call sign being used by the Quartz Hill Radio Club of New Zealand, completed a crossband 137 kHz CW/7 MHz SSB contact with 3D2KL on Fiji. The Fiji station was operated by Laurence Howell, KL1X, with ZM2E operated by Andrew Corney, ZL2BBJ; Mike McAlevey, ZL4OL, and Bob Vernall, ZL2CA. The path between Fiji and the station located near Wellington on New Zealand's North Island is around 2500 km (1550 miles), and signals from ZM2E were received about 1 hour before Fiji dusk.

## **Weather Forces Early Shutdown of Aves Island YV0D DXpedition:**

Disappointing news for DXers hoping to check another rare one off their lists. With bad weather headed its way, the YV0D Aves Island DXpedition shut down a couple of days early. YV0D went silent August 4 at 1045 UTC. Aves Island is one of the top-10 most-wanted DXCC entities. Team member Martti Laine, OH2BH, informed the 20-meter SSB pileup early on August 4 that YV0D would not be staying until August 6 as planned. "We are going QRT in the morning," he said. "The weather is very bad. A storm is coming." Despite the shorter-than-expected operation, YV0D logged some 18,500 QSOs--including a number of 6-meter QSOs during an opening--in around 59 hours of operation, according to The Daily DX [ARRL LETTER, via eham.net] <http://www.dailydx.com>.

## **The K7RA Solar Update (Aug 13, 2004) --**

Big sunspot 649 rotated back into view this week, and sunspot and solar flux numbers are up. Average daily sunspot number for the week August 5-11 rose more than 35 points (from the previous week) to 77.9, and average daily solar flux was up more than 18 points to 106.5. There were no large geomagnetic events--only some periods of unsettled to active conditions.



## WA7BNM Contest Calendar

- Aug. 28-29: YO DX HF Contest  
SCC RTTY Championship  
Ohio QSO Party  
SARL HF CW Contest
- Sept. 4-5: All Asian DX Contest, Phone  
IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB  
RSGB SSB Field Day  
DARC 10-meter Digital Contest
- Sept 6-7 MI QRP Labor Day Sprint CW
- Sept. 11-12 YLRL Howdy Days  
WAE DX Contest, SSB
- Sept. 11-13 ARRL VHF QSO Party
- Sept. 12-13 Tennessee QSO Party
- Sept. 18-19 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest  
SARL VHF/UHF Contest  
Scandinavian Activity, CW  
QRP Afield  
Washington State Salmon Run  
QCWA QSO Party  
NA Sprint, SSB
- Sept 25-26 CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY  
Scandinavian Activity, SSB  
Texas QSO Party  
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest

### ISRAEL

4X4SIX is the new 6 meter Israeli beacon operating on 50.080 MHz. 4X6ON and 4Z5AY built the station which announces its call sign on CW around the clock. The beacon is located in grid square KM-72-JB running 5 watts out to a J-Pole antenna. [WIA QNEWS]

## ANDORRA on 6 Meters

According to John, ON4IQ, Andorra has released the 6-metre band to all resident amateurs. He reports that C31JI and C31HK are both active on the band. (GB2RS)

## VHF AND ABOVE

Jack Hayden VK2GJH, whilst waiting for the solar storm and its associated Openings came upon this tid bit of info.. Did you know that the first recorded six-metre contact between Australia and Hong Kong took place just over 26 years ago? On the 5th of May 1978 VK4RO worked VS6HK. In 1997 the VS6 prefix was removed and replaced with the now familiar VR2 prefix. [WIA QNEWS]

## ARRL DX BULLETIN

**SAMOA, 5W.** 5W0DL has been QRV using PSK31 on 20 meters between 0400 and 1200z. Also, 5W0TR has been QRV on 30 meters after 0830z. QSL both calls via K8AA.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 9Q.

Cyprien, 9Q1KS has been QRV on 15 meters SSB around 1600z. QSL via operator's instructions.

**JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLANDS, CE0.** Eliazar, CE0ZIS has been QRV on 12 and 10 meters around 2030 and 2100z.

**CAMBODIA, XU.** Claude, XU7ABN has been QRV on 20 and 15 meters using RTTY between 1830 to 2230z, and then after 1000z, respectively. QSL via operator's instructions.

**TONGA, A3.** Chris, A35DX has been QRV on 20 meters using SSB from around 0400 to 0700z.

QSL via EB2AYV.

**BAHRAIN, A9.** Mohamed, A92GR has been QRV on 17 meters using SSB around 1700z. QSL direct.

**REUNION ISLAND, FR.** Joseph, FR5HA has been QRV using PSK31 on 20 meters around 0400z and then around 1200z. QSL via operator's instructions.

**SOUTH SHETLANDS.** HF0QF has been QRV on 20 meters using SSB around 2100z. QSL via SP7IWA.

**LEBANON, OD.** Francis, OD5PL has been QRV using CW on 15 meters around 1300z. QSL via HB9CRV.

**BRUNEI, V8.** V8FDX has been QRV on 30 meters from around 1300 to 1700z. QSL via JM1LJS.

**AFGHANISTAN, YA.** Henry, F6EAY is currently QRV as T6RF while in Kabul. He has been active using mostly PSK31. QSL to F6ITD.

**Liberia, EL.** EL2DX is QRV from Monrovia and has been active on 20 meters around 2155z. QSL via K8SJP

**PAKISTAN, AP.** Bob, AP2JZB has been QRV on 17 meters around 1530z. QSL direct.

**SUDAN, ST.** Paul, ST2PN works for the UN World Food Program and is usually active from Khartoum as time permits. QSL direct via PA7FM.

**CAMEROON, TJ.** Acho, TJ1AD has been QRV on 20 meters around 2300z. QSL via operator's instructions.

## Hamfests

**Sat./Sun, Sept. 11-12** – Gaithersburg, MD  
FAR-FEST – Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds

**Sat./Sun, Sept., 18-19** – Virginia Beach, VA  
NEW LOCATION: Va. Wesleyan College,  
1584 Wesleyan Drive. (146.97/R)  
<http://www.vahamfest.com>

**Sunday., October 2**, West Friendship, MD  
CARA-FEST, Howard County Fairgrounds

**Sun., October 17**, Sellersville, PA  
RF Hill ARC Hamfest . Sellersville  
Fire House, Main St., Bethlehem Pike  
Cathy Soete 215-723-7294. Map and  
hamfest flyer: <http://www.rfhill.ampr.org>

**Sunday, October 31**. Westminster, MD  
CCARC Hamfest, Carroll Co. Agricultural  
Center. Steve, N3SB, 410-876-1482.  
<http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn> (145.41/R)

## VE Exams

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 1 PM**, Davidsonville, by AARC  
Register 12 Noon. Bob, AA3RR. 410-437-8193

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 9 AM**, Laurel by LARC, 384 Main  
St. John Creel, WB3GXW, 301-572-5124.

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 6 PM**, Linthicum. At Historical  
Electronics Museum. Harold, WB4OGP,  
410-757-0493(h); 410-712-6829(w)

## BARC VE EXAMS

12360 Owings Mills Blvd. Owings Mills  
Register at 1 PM, exams at 2 PM  
Saturdays: Sept. 4, Nov. 6, Dec. 4.  
Sunday: October 3.  
Pre-registration preferred, walk-ins permitted  
Call Rusty, N3WKE, 410-247-0578

**NOTICE:** If you know of any hamfests or  
VE Exams not listed here, please let us  
know by sending us an e-mail...Thanks!

September, 2004

## milliwatt swap shop

**ads are free and get results!**

Send ad to: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915  
Baltimore, MD 21282-5915, or e-mail  
to: [mayerzimmerman@netzero.com](mailto:mayerzimmerman@netzero.com)

### FOR SALE: The famous W3GXX low-band station.

Make reasonable offer on any or all of the following:  
(package deal preferred): ICOM 730 xcvr. (fan needs  
some coaxing), ICOM PS-15 power supply; MFJ 481  
Grandmaster memory keyer; Bencher BY2 paddle  
(silver), MFJ 900 econo-tuner antenna tuner; Heath  
HM102 low band power/swr meter, Heath HD1426  
relative field strength meter, all cables and connectors.  
Alliance HD 73 Heavy Duty rotor, South River 10-foot  
tripod (some rust); HyGain TH3MK3S (stainless steel  
hardware) triband beam; (You take down beam and  
tripod) Call Mayer, W3GXX, 410-786-6839, leave  
message, or email: [mayerzimmerman@netzero.com](mailto:mayerzimmerman@netzero.com)

**FOR SALE:** Heathkit CO1015w/ inverter, \$75.  
Heathkit Security Sentinel GD-3810, \$20. AUTEK  
Research QF-1A SSB/CW/AM filter, \$40. D-104  
mic, G-stand, original boxes, \$45. Tektronix 604/  
716M X-Y scope, \$50. WWII HiPower ant. tuner,  
Vac. variables, roller inductor, \$120. Headphones:  
AZDEN DM 10, new in box, \$15, TELEX C-1320,  
\$15. Clevite Bush, \$15. Panoramic adapter  
BC-1031C, \$45. Tektronix 105 square wave  
generator, \$25. Power supplies: 13.8VDC @ 20a.  
\$40; 13.8VDC @ 35a, \$50. Table mount rack  
cabinet, \$5. Complete UHF repeater system w/  
2 Motorola hand-helds, 1 mobile xcvr, \$150.  
W2IHY 8-band audio equalizer, noise gate, \$175.  
Kenwood TS930SAT, needs service \$150. Call  
Ted, W3OWN, 410-668-5580. Please leave  
message if you get answering machine.

**FOR SALE:** ADI AR-146 2-mtr. mobile rig.  
Very dependable, includes mounting bracket,  
lighter plug adapter, magmount antenna, \$125.  
Yaesu FT50R dualband 2-mtr./440. Scans from  
76 MHz to 999 MHz (less cell). Extra battery,  
CA-15 charger, ear/throat mike, over shoulder  
harness, regularly \$330. Sell for \$275. Contact  
Russ for either or both rigs: [n3yi@yahoo.com](mailto:n3yi@yahoo.com)

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**WANTED:** AC Gilbert erector sets; old, new  
large, small, need not be complete. CASH  
paid Lewis, 410-296-4874.

### Antique Radio Repair , Restoration

Eric, WA3TAD, Audio-Visual Service/Retro Radio  
3401 Chestnut Avenue; Baltimore, MD 21211.  
410-467-3620; [wa3tad@comcast.net](mailto:wa3tad@comcast.net)

**FREE!** I have a crank-up tower that goes up to  
40 ft. including ground mounting base. Free for  
anyone who could use it, but you transport. It is  
a steel triangle tubing type. If no one wants it,  
I plan to cut it up for scrap. John English AA3OW.  
[aa3ow@hotmail.com](mailto:aa3ow@hotmail.com)

**FOR SALE:** Yaesu low band transceiver,  
KW amplifier, misc. "stuff" to go w/ above.  
Make offer. Marvin, WB3JDR, 410-484-1404.

**FOR SALE:** Telechrome Model 3508-A1  
professional TV test signal generator, A solid  
state, portable or rack-mountable self-contained  
test instrument producing video signals to measure  
transmission characteristics of video and TV.  
Very useful for ATV, SSTV, 16.5" W x 7" H x 12" D,  
in excellent condx with schematics, Make offer  
(+ \$20 shipping in Continental US). Dennis, N3DG,  
[radiodq@hotmail.com](mailto:radiodq@hotmail.com)

**Radio Consignment Shop** at Overlea Hobbies  
8411 Harford Rd. Parkville, 410-665-3622.  
Home of fine trains, model kits, x-acto, cars,  
planes ships, many radios. Yaesu FT101ZD,  
Kenwood TS 820S, 930S, Heathkit SB-102,  
National NC-183, more... Dick, N3JWN,  
410-488-2806.

**ATTENTION:** If you do NOT want your ad to run  
again, please send me an e-mail to that effect.  
Thanks! [mayerzimmerman@netzero.com](mailto:mayerzimmerman@netzero.com)

## VTS - VIDEOTAPING SERVICE

Video/DVD duplications, video tape transferred  
to DVD. One source up to 2 hours, \$30.  
Standards, conversions. Call VTS toll free at  
1-877-891-1002. BRATS member Bob Shapiro,  
K2MYS <http://www.videotapingservice.com>

## JADE COMPUTERS, LLC

1009 Ingleside Ave. Baltimore, MD 21228  
Phone: 419-719-1246; Fax: 410-719-9494  
Your answer to custom built PC, office and home  
networking, Reseller for Net Integrity Server,  
cable modem, DSL, webpage design and hosting  
POS and networking. We do CPR to your CPU.  
Kid tested, mother approved. Order PC on line:  
<http://www.jadecomputers.net>  
e-mail: [joed@jadecomptuers.us](mailto:joed@jadecomptuers.us)

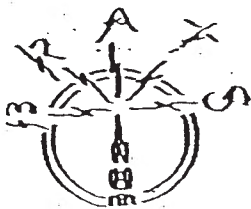
**FOR SALE:** Best offer for any or all: Tempo One  
SSBxcvr. spkr, p/s; Kenwood TS940S w/ ant tuner ,  
TenTec 229 ant. tuner, MFJ Versatuner II, Bearcat  
BC IV AC or DC 8-channel scan or manual. Swan  
Mark II linear, p/s, BK precision oscilloscope, signal  
generator. Dick Ward, KA3SBM, 410-529-8637.

**FOR SALE:** 1 TE Systems UHF 420-475 MHz 10W  
in , 100 W out continuous duty RF power amp,  
model 4410R in outstanding condition. Asking 200.  
Contact R. Burns, K3GOD at 410-238-0066 .

**FOR SALE:** Military receiver , BC 348Q, excellent  
condx, modified for 12v fil. easily reverted to original  
28v, no other modification; internal p/s w/ speaker,  
mounting base, FT 154 plug PL 103 unique ant.  
noise shield ( have only seen one other) TM and  
conversion material. Asking \$175. Virgil, K3BCD,  
410-866-5541.

**FOR SALE:** Two (2) BP-33 batteries for Kenwood  
TH-22AT . 6v. @ 1200mah nicads. John, KA3ZTC  
[ka3ztc1@juno.com](mailto:ka3ztc1@juno.com) or call me on the repeater.

**WANTED:** Ride to and from hamfests. Will  
contribute toward gasoline. I live in Baltimore City.  
Marv, N3BQA, 410-685-6308.



# the Milliwatt



The award-winning monthly publication of  
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society  
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

September, 2004

## Extra Class Course

Historical Electronics Museum in Linthicum  
1745 W. Nursery Rd. , Tuesday nights starting  
Sept. 21st, 6:30 PM. Must already have General  
or Advanced Class license. Contact Les, WR3X  
at 410-787-0341 or by e-mail: wr3x@juno.com,  
or Rol Anders, K3RA, 410-796-4792.

## County hunters turn to 30 meters

County hunting enthusiasts have begun using 30  
meters (10.114 MHz) for their CW activities. "With  
the decline of sunspot activity and worsening  
propagation on 20 meters, county hunters have  
established the new frequency for working mobile  
stations around the US," says Bob Voss, N4CD.  
"All are welcome to join in and work the mobiles  
as they travel through the 3077 counties in the  
USA giving out contacts."

## ATV

**Low Band ATV Net, AATN Meeting:**

Fridays at 9 PM 3930 KHz , +/-

### BRATS NETS:

Monday 11:45 AM, Informal ATV Net,

Thursday, 9 PM, ATV Net, W3WVV

### Homepages:

HATS (Houston ATV Society)

<http://www.hats.stevens.com>

Black Mountain AQTV Repeater

<http://www.w6yx.stanford.edu>

### BRATS

<http://www.bratsatv.org>

## Next BRATS Meeting

Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 PM , Pikesville Library

## Other Radio Club Meetings:

### QCWA

**Monday at Noon**, Cactus Willie  
7315 Ritchie Hwy, Glen Burnie

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 1 PM:** Old Country

Buffet, Joppa Rd at Satyr Hill

**Last Wednes. 1 PM:** Denny's

Bel Air Rd at Putty Hill

**AARC:** 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs, 7:30 pm

Davidsonville Family Rec.Center,

Queen Anne Bridge Rd, Wayson

Rd. (147.105/R)

**AMRAD:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7:30 PM,

Dolley Madison Library ; 1244 Oak

Ridge Ave. McLean, VA (147.21/R)

**BARC:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7:30 PM

12360 Owings Mills Blvd. (nr. warehouse

Owings Mills, MD (146.67/R)

**CARA:** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Gateway Center,

Rm 401, 6751 Gateway Dr. Columbia.

South off Rte. 175 (147.135/R)

## BRATS MEETINGS

Second Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown Rd.

**BRATS Membership Renewal: Regular= \$12; Retired/Disabled/Student/Fam.= \$6**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ BRATS No \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: BRATS; P.O. Box 5915, Baltimore, MD 21282. Thanks!**